AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of digitally processing ~~images~~ image files in a network system including digital image processing ~~device, at least a subset of said~~ devices having an operating unit provided with operating means and a display, the method comprising the steps of:

[[-]] storing, in each digital image processing device, information on capabilities and status of connected digital image processing devices; and

[[-]] locally initiating ~~receiving, at a first device, a command for starting~~ a digital image processing job ~~with job settings;~~ through a local operating unit of a first image processing device, said job having job settings,

wherein said first image processing device performs the steps of:

[[-]] automatically analysing said digital image processing job as to device capabilities necessary for processing said job in accordance with the job settings of the job;

[[-]] automatically checking if the first device can process the job in accordance with the job settings of the job; ~~and~~

[[-]] if the first image processing device cannot process the job in accordance with the job settings, automatically ~~advising at the first device, if said first device cannot process the job,~~ advising, through a display of the local operating unit, of at least one other device that can process the job in accordance with the job settings of the job; and

if the first image processing device can process the job in accordance with the job settings, starts processing the job.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the advice is given if another device having said capabilities needed for processing said job is available.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein, if more than one other device can process the job, the advice indicates one other device on the basis of the walking distance from the first device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein, if more than one other device can process the job, the advice indicates one other device on the basis of degree of occupation.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said advising has the form of a message on the display of said first device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of processing digital print files in a network system including a plurality of ~~printers, at least a subset of the~~ printers having

[[an]] a local operating unit provided with operating means and a display and a memory for storing print files, each print file comprising metadata specifying job information including process settings, and print image data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a print file from a remote location and storing the print file, while not automatically printing the print file;

actively sharing at least the metadata of each received print file among said plurality of printers connected to the system;

each of said plurality of printers making each print file available for selection and printing, through respective local operating units of said plurality of printers; and

[[-]] storing, in each printer, information on capabilities and status of connected ~~printers;~~ printers,

[[-]] ~~receiving, at a first printer, a print file having preprogrammed settings;~~

[[-]] wherein each of said plurality of printers performs the steps of:

automatically analysing ~~said~~ each print file metadata as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file; ~~in accordance with the preprogrammed settings of the print file;~~

[[-]] automatically checking if ~~said first~~ that printer can print the print file in accordance with ~~said preprogrammed~~ the settings included in the metadata; and

[[-]] upon receiving from the local operating unit a selection and an associated print start command for a print file:

if the printer cannot print the print file in accordance with the settings, automatically ~~advising at the first printer, if said first printer cannot print the print file,~~ advising, through a display of the local operating unit, of at least one other printer that can print said print file in accordance with ~~said preprogrammed~~ the settings; and

if the printer can print the print file in accordance with the settings, starts printing the file.

8-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A method of processing digital scan jobs in a network system including a plurality of scanners, said scanners having an operating unit provided with operating means and a display, the method comprising the steps of:

[[-]] storing, in each scanner, information on capabilities and status of connected scanners; and

[[-]] ~~receiving, at~~ locally initiating a scan job through the local operating unit of a first scanner, ~~a scan job command entered by an operator,~~ said scan job including scan job ~~settings;~~ settings,

wherein said first scanner performs the steps of:

[[-]] automatically analysing said scan job as to scanner capabilities necessary for processing the scan job in accordance with the ~~entered~~ scan job settings of the job;

[[-]] automatically checking if said first scanner can process the scan job in accordance with said scan job settings, and

[[-]] if the first scanner cannot process the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings, automatically ~~advising, at the first scanner, if said first scanner cannot process the scan job,~~ advising, through a display of the local operating unit, of at least one other scanner that can ~~print said print file~~ process the scan job in accordance with ~~said~~ the scan job settings of the job; and

if the first scanner can process the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings, starts processing the job.

11. (Original) A printer for printing digital print files, for use in a network printing system including a plurality of printers, said printer comprising:

- a network connection unit for communicating with the system and for receiving print files having preprogrammed settings;

- a print unit;

- an operating unit provided with operating means and a display; and

- a control unit including

-- a maintaining mechanism for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected printers;

-- an analysing mechanism for analysing a received print file as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file in accordance with the preprogrammed settings of the print file;

-- a checking mechanism for checking if the printer can print the print file in accordance with said preprogrammed settings; and

-- an advising mechanism for advising, in the case that the printer cannot print the print file, of at least one other printer that has the capabilities needed for printing said print file in accordance with said preprogrammed settings.

12. (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein said control unit decides if a printer can print a specific print file on the basis of whether that printer has the capabilities necessary for printing the print file.

13. (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein said control unit gives the advice if another printer having said capabilities needed for printing said print file is available.

14. (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein the information on capabilities and status of connected printers, maintained in each printer, includes the physical locations of said printers, and

wherein, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of the walking distance from the first printer.

15. (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of degree of occupation.

16. (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein a digital print file includes metadata specifying job information and print image data, the printer further comprising:

- an extracting module for extracting at least part of the metadata of a received print file and storing the same in a local memory dedicated to the control unit;

- a storing module for storing the print image data of said received print file in a logical storage space allocated to said user;

wherein said control unit further includes:

-- a print file selection mechanism for presenting print files, based on the metadata extracted by the extracting module, that can be selected via the operating means; and

-- a print file releasing mechanism for releasing a print file for printing by the print unit only after selection of that print file and an associated print command entered via the operating means;

wherein the control unit operates said advising mechanism upon selection of a print file, if the printer cannot print the print file in accordance with its preprogrammed settings.

17. (Original) The printer according to claim 14, further including

- a metadata exchange module for exchanging metadata of print files directly or indirectly with another printer,

wherein said control unit is operable to receive metadata from said metadata exchange module.

18. (Original) A scanner for processing digital scan jobs, for use in a network system including a plurality of scanners, said scanner comprising:

- a network connection unit, for communicating with the network system;

- a scan unit;

- an operating unit provided with operating means and a display for entering a scan job command with scan job settings;

- a control unit including

-- a maintaining mechanism for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected scanners;

-- an analysing mechanism for analysing an entered scan job command as to scanner capabilities necessary for processing the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings of the scan job;

-- a checking mechanism for checking if the scanner can process the scan job in accordance with said scan job settings; and

-- an advising mechanism for advising, in the case that the scanner cannot process the scan job, of at least one other scanner that has the capabilities needed for processing said scan job in accordance with said scan job settings.

19. (Original) The scanner according to claim 18, wherein said control unit decides if a scanner can process a specific scan job on the basis of whether that scanner has the capabilities necessary for processing the scan job.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~printer~~ scanner according to claim 18, wherein said control unit gives the advice if another scanner having said capabilities needed for processing said scan job is available.